

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application. No.: 10/799,772
Attorney Docket No: Q80202

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1-5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as allegedly being unpatentable over JP 2000-309637, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,122,315 to Darley ("Darley '315").

U.S. Patent No. 6,399,709 to Moriguchi *et al.* ("Moriguchi '709") has been relied upon as a translation of JP 2000-309637.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Moriguchi '709 teaches a process for producing a thermoplastic elastomer composition. *See*, Abstract. Referring to page 3 of the Office Action, it has been acknowledged that Moriguchi '709 does not teach (1) measuring the amount of a produced thermoplastic elastomer composition at an outlet of an extrude, (2) calculating the feeding amount of a bulky rubber by deducting the feeding amount of a thermoplastic resin and an additive from the amount of the produced thermoplastic elastomer composition, and (3) controlling the feeding amount of the bulky rubber.

Darley '315 is relied upon to make up for the deficiencies of Moriguchi '709. Darley '315 teaches a method for monitoring and controlling the thermoplastic extruder output. *See*, Abstract and col. 3, lines 15-37. Darley '315 teaches the speed of the gear pump 34 is adjusted in relation to the rate of "product output" and the rate of "material input." *See*, Abstract. Such teachings in Darley '315 fail to teach or suggest calculating the feed amount of one of its inputs.

As such, Darley '315 fails to teach or suggest calculating the feeding amount of a bulky rubber. Darley '315 also fails to teach or suggest deducting the feeding amount of a

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thermoplastic resin and an additive from the amount of the produced thermoplastic elastomer composition. Accordingly, Darley '315 fails to make up of all of the deficiencies in Moriguichi '709.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

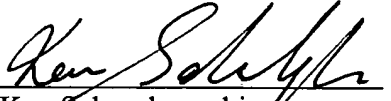
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